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THE NEW HUMANS

THE NEW HUMANS

!! CHRONOLOGY WARNING !!

THE NEW HUMANS STORY BEGINS
AT THE END OF EX-MUTANTS VOLUME 1 #3.
THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE IS IN NEW HUMANS #1.
THEN THEY APPEAR IN EX-MUTANTS VOLUME 1 #5.
THEN CONTINUE THEIR ADVENTURES IN NEW HUMANS #2.

DO NOT CROSS DO NOT CROSS DO NOT CROSS DO NOT CROSS

Scanner Notes

NEW HUMANS #2
"THE SUN NEVER SETS"

This issue was first published by Pied Piper Comics and reprinted by Eternity Comics (Blue Border of the scans).

ENJOY!

KING SPYDER

JUNE 21ST, 2009

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THE NEW
HUMANS

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Proudly Presents a Pageant of Peerless Publications!

ITEM:

IT'S OFFICIAL! In the space of just a few short months, **PIED PIPER COMICS** have taken comicdom by storm! Seems our loyal legions simply can't get enough of our magnificent mags! So who says this isn't quickly becoming the Piper Age of Comics?! (Certainly not us...you know how *we* hate to brag!)

ITEM:

Practically everyone (except our envious competition) is raving about **BEAST WARRIORS OF SHAOLIN**...our latest and possibly greatest hit! **Peerless Peter Quinones**, whose power packed scripting has propelled him to fan-favorite status virtually overnight, has carefully crafted the mysterious legends of ancient China into a modern comics masterwork--and **Galloping Glen Johnson's** incredible pencils must be seen to be believed! (Even then, we aren't sure how he manages to pack so much action on every single page--but we aren't complaining!) Add the awesome inks of **Magic Marty Lasick** and it's another titanic triumph from cover to cover!

ITEM:

Speaking of **Peerless Pete**, there's just no holding him back when he on a roll... and right now he's practically an ever-lovin' avalanche! We're referring, natch, to his other blockbuster hit, **TERRAFORMERS!** SF adventure at it's very best...as only **Cruisin' Kelley Jones & Jaunty Jim Sinclair**, art team supreme, could deliniate! And just wait till you catch the spectrum-smashing colors of **Rugged Ron Courtney**! We never dreamed a comic could look so good!

ITEM:

Of course **Peerless Pete** isn't the only writer here in the **Piper Bullpen** with a double-barrelled hit on his hands! How could be possibly forget **Killer Kevin Juaire**, co-creator and scripter (along with our own **Dauntless David Campiti**) of **HERO ALLIANCE**...arguably the best super-hero team book going--and with **Rapid Ron Lim & Crushing Keith Williams** handling the art chores and **Mischevious Marcus David** on the colors, who are we to argue? Unless you mention **POWER FACTOR, KILLER KEVIN'S** other smash series, that is! This one has all the power and drama you've come to expect... plus the pulsating pencilling of the one and only **Champion Carmine Infantino**! All we had to do was add the incredible inking of **Dashing Doug Hazelwood** and the eye-popping airbrush artistry of **Titanic Tom Vincent**, and the rest was easy! If you miss the excitement, frantic one, you'll have nobody to blame but yourself!

ITEM:

If excitement's what you're craving, we've discovered one of the most exciting new artists since we unleashed **Rapid Ron Lim** on the comics world! Now we're proud to present the awesome artwork of **Jumpin' Jack Snider**! We were so overwhelmed by his electrifying pencilling that we immediately assigned him **NEW HUMANS #3**...and that's just the beginning for this talented newcomer! We predict great things for **Jumpin' Jack**, especially since we've teamed him with **Joltin' Jeff Dee**, inker extraordinaire! Throw in **Daring Dennis Duarte**, who scripts as mean a comic story as we've seen in many a moon, and is it any wonder we have yet another smash success on our hands?

ITEM:

Art lovers take note! **EX-MUTANTS #8** features the dramatic debut of **JAZZY JOE PHILLIPS!** There's no doubt about it, the man's a super-star in the making!

ITEM:

Because YOU demanded it, we're unleashing our third **EX-MUTANTS** related title...and this one's a doozy! So, without further adieu, welcome **THE WILD KNIGHTS**...scripted by **Daring Dennis**, with the pandemonious pencilling of **Cuddley Kevin VanHook**, and the uncanny inking of **Bouncin' Bill Anderson**! You won't want to miss the action-packed premiere of the greatest motorcycle mutant mayhem book of all time! (Come to think of it, **THE WILD KNIGHTS** is the ONLY motorcycle mutant mayhem book of all time...but heck, who's counting?)

ITEM:

No doubt about it, **PIED PIPER COMICS** has become a hotbed of the greatest new talent in comicdom today--there's an ever increasing excitement in the air, pushing your overworked bullpen to even greater heights! But the long, hard hours are worth it, faithful one...because we do it all for you!

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THE NEW HUMANS™

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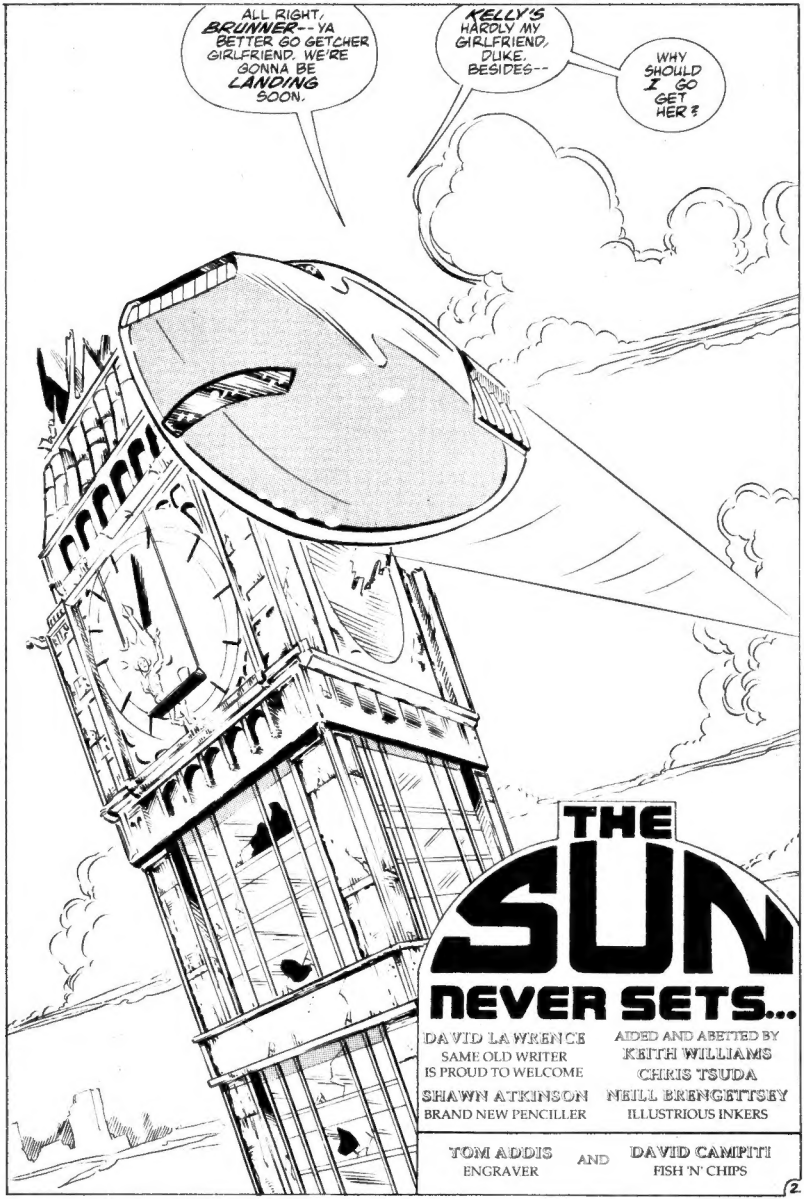
EVERY MORNING FOR ALMOST FIFTY YEARS, HIGGINS HAS DONE HIS DUTY AS AN ENGLISHMAN.
OH, HE NEVER FOUGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY, LIKE HIS FATHER AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM --
--BUT IF HE HAD THE CHANCE, HE WOULD HAVE PROUDLY.
IT WASN'T HIS FAULT. THE LAST WAR WAS OVER SO FAST, HE'D JUST NEVER HAD THE CHANCE.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. BECAUSE HIGGINS KNOWS ONE IMPORTANT TRUTH.
THE EMPIRE ISN'T WHAT SHE ONCE WAS, BUT AS LONG AS LOYAL BRITISHERS LIKE HIM REMEMBER--
--THERE WILL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND!


ALL RIGHT, BRUNNER--YA BETTER GO GETCHER GIRLFRIEND. WE'RE GONNA BE LANDING SOON.
KELLY'S HARDLY MY GIRLFRIEND, DUKE. BESIDES--
WHY SHOULD I GO GET HER?
THE SUN NEVER SETS...
DAVID LAWRENCE
SAME OLD WRITER
IS PROUD TO WELCOME
SHAWN ATKINSON
BRAND NEW PENCILLER
AIDED AND ABETTED BY
KEITH WILLIAMS
CHRIS TSUDA
NEILL BRENGETTSEY
ILLUSTRIOUS INKERS
TOM ADDIS
ENGRAVER
AND
DAVID CAMPITI
FISH 'N' CHIPS

ME AND CAL GOTTA STAY HERE AND FLY THE PLANE.
WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?
NO, DOUG! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO EAT THESE!
JUST SHEER, SENSIBLE COWARDICE.
I KNOW THIS HASN'T BEEN EASY ON ANY OF US--
--BUT I THINK THINGS HAVE BEEN HARDEST FOR KELLY.
"WAKING UP AT JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, AND FINDING OUR SIX-MONTH TEST OF A SUSPENDED ANIMATION SYSTEM HAD LASTED THIRTY YEARS WAS MORE THAN BAD ENOUGH--
--AND THEN WE FOUND OUT IT WAS BECAUSE MOST OF THE WORLD WAS WIPED OUT IN A NUCLEAR WAR!
"THEN TO TOP THAT ALL OFF, KELLY FOUND HER SON--ALIVE IN NEW YORK--AND THAT HE WAS LEADER OF THE WHOLE CITY--
--AND CREATOR OF SOME BEINGS CALLED THE EX-MUTANTS, AS WELL."
"TO HAVE HIM TURN ON HER--AND TRY TO STEAL THIS SHIP FROM US--
"WHY, IF DOUGLAS HADN'T SAVED US, WE MIGHT'VE NEVER GOTTEN AWAY!"
SO I CAN UNDERSTAND HER BEING DEPRESSED, BUT--
KELLY--
3

--KELLY, HOW ARE YOU? STILL BROODING?
I DON'T BROOD, ROGER.
NO--
--YOU JUST SIT ALONE,
IN THE DARK,
DRINKING.
CLUG!
I KNOW YOU DO. IN A BAR, AT A PARTY--WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN.
I LIKE TO DRINK, ROGER.
I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS, KELLY--
--YOU NEVER DRINK ALONE!
I WON'T DRINK ALONE, THEN!
JOIN ME, ROGER?

NOT TEQUILA. THANK YOU. NEVER COULD STAND IT. WHY, I STILL REMEMBER ONE NIGHT WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE--
--THE BARMAID AT THE LUNA GAVE ME A SHOT OF TEQUILA INSTEAD OF PEACH SCHNAPPS...
WHY OF COURSE I THREW UP ON THE BAR...
KELLY, I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET BY WHAT HAPPENED--
--BUT STILL, YOU'VE GOT A SON WHO'S ALIVE! YOU KNOW WHAT BECAME OF YOUR FAMILY!
YOU'VE GOT SOME ANSWERS--
--THE REST OF US, WE ONLY HAVE QUESTIONS. AND PROBABLY ALWAYS WILL.
ROGER--THE TROUBLE WITH EMMANUEL UPSET ME--
--BUT THAT'S NOT ALL OF IT. EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN SINCE WE AWAKENED--IT'S ALL BEEN SO HOPELESS...
THAT'S WHY WE LEFT AMERICA, KELLY. IT'S TIME TO SEE WHAT THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER.
MAYBE THINGS WILL LOOK BRIGHTER HERE. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--
YEAH. I KNOW--

--IF THERE'S A HOARY CLICHE TO BE FOUND--
--ROGER BRUNNER WILL UNEARTH IT!
GLAD TA SEE YA COULD MAKE IT. YOU BETTER GET STRAPPED IN, UNLESS YA WANNA BOUNCE ALL OVER THE COCKPIT.
WHERE ARE WE LANDING, DUKE?
FIGURED WE'D GO FER THE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, RIGHT OUTSIDE BUCKINGHAM PALACE!
THE GROUNDS ARE PRETTY CLEAR. IT LOOKS LIKE THE BUILDING'S IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE--
--PLUS, IT'S GOT TRADITION ON ITS SIDE. I FIGURE IF THERE'S ANY KIND OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE, IT'LL BE CENTERED HERE.
REALLY, DUKE?
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN DO THAT MUCH THINKING.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN BOOZE SO MUCH, DOC--BUT YOU DO LOOK KINDA WOOZY.
--IF YA CAN'T HANDLE IT--
LISTEN, DUKE--
--ANYTIME YOU WANT TO TRY, I'LL BE HAPPY TO PUT YOU UNDER THE TABLE!
HMMM...
OKAY, DOC--YER ON!
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR!
WELL, CAL--
--HOW ARE MY CHANCES?
OH--
--I'D SAY AROUND FIFTY-FIFTY.

OY.
EVERYONE LOOK AROUND, BUT DON'T GO WANDERIN' AWAY.
HMM... NO SIGN OF LIFE.
≥SIGH!≤ NO SIGN OF FOOD.
WE'RE ALL GONNA BE A LOT SAFER IF WE STICK TOGETHER--
SO THIS IS ENGLAND!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE ENGLAND.
--SO STAY ALERT, AND FOR GOD'S SAKE--
I WONDER IF GLASTONBURY STILL STANDING...
UHHMMF!
--TRY TA BE CAREFUL!
YEEOOWCH!
WHAT IN THE WORLD..?
THAT CAME FROM ROGER'S DIRECTION!
LET'S GO!
≥SIGH!≤ HERE WE GO AGAIN!
8.

GET 'IM OFF ME! GET 'IM OFF ME!
LOOK OUT! HERE COME THE REST OF THEM!

YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT. KEEP IT UP--

CLANG!

--AND YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME MAD...

HELP ME!
PANT-PANT
SOMEBODY--PLEASE 'ELP ME!

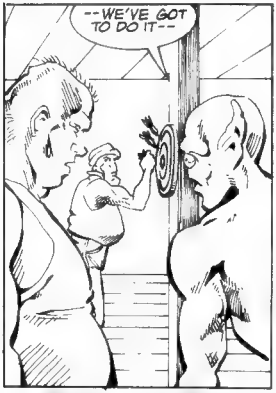
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BETTER HIM THAN US.

AT LEAST WE'RE HOLDING OUR OWN--
WHICH AIN'T TOO BAD WHEN YOU CONSIDER KELLY'S STILL HALF-LOADED--
--AND ROGER COULD GET SAND KICKED IN HIS FACE BY THE "BEFORE" PICTURE IN THE CHARLES ATLAS AD!
--BUT THIS JUST AIN'T GETTIN' US ANYWHERE. WE'VE GOT NO REASON TO WANTA FIGHT 'EM--
--AND SOONER OR LATER, THEY'RE BOUND TO CALL UP--
THERE THEY ARE!
OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!
--REINFORCEMENTS
DO YOU THINK HE READ ALICE IN WONDERLAND?

IN HERE--
:PUFF-PUFF:
I'LL BE SAFE IN HERE.

QUICK!! BOLT THE DOOR!

WHUT'S GOIN' ON, MATE?
THERE'S NO TIME TO TALK. JUST TRUST ME--


--WE'VE GOT TO DO IT--

"--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"
THUD!
HMMM...

LOCKED. I GUESS...

OH, WELL...
SPRING

THAT'S THE END OF THAT. 'E CAN BANG ON THAT DOOR ALL DAY IF 'E WANTS, BUT 'E'LL NEVER GET IN 'ERE--
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

PPRRIIIIIPPPP
--NOW...

I HATE TO SAY IT, MATE--
--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT JUST ISN'T YOUR DAY.

YOU THINK MAYBE WE'RE IN TROUBLE?
NAH. WHATEVER GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?
OH, WELL--

--THEY NEVER DID MUCH LIKE AMERICANS OVER HERE, ANYHOW...

AMERICANS?

WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

WELL, YOU DIDN'T EXACTLY ASK...
I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D RETURN--
-- THOUGH I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE SO LONG.
GLAD TO SEE OUR OLD ALLIES CAME THROUGH THE WAR UNHARMED, AS WELL!
UNHARMED? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?, THEY'RE ALL--
SHH... JUST LET HIM TALK FOR NOW. WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT LATER!
OF COURSE, THAT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE ME--YOU WERE THE WORLD'S SECOND GREATEST EMPIRE!
YOU MUST BE TIRED. WE'LL SHOW YOU YOUR ROOMS SO YOU CAN REST FOR AWHILE. WE'LL TALK AT LENGTH LATER.
SHOULD WE?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, DOC---
-- I AIN'T REAL SURE WE'VE GOT A CHOICE!

YOU KNOW, ENGLAND IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITH 100 RELIGIONS AND ONLY ONE SAUCE.
WHUT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

HOW WOULD I KNOW? VOLTAIRE SAID IT, NOT ME.
BRUNNER-- NEXT TIME YOU'RE CAPTURED BY A GANG OF MUTANTS--
--I THINK I'M JUST GONNA LET THEM KILL YOU.

WHILE...
NOW LOOK, MATE-- I SAID I WAS SORRY--
--THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO GET HUFFY OVER A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS--

--I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT BAD FEELINGS OVER SUCH A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING--
--YOU KNOW, YOU'LL REALLY REGRET THIS LATER--
--LOOK, WHY DON'T WE JUST SIT DOWN AND TALK THIS OVER--

--I'LL FIND US LUNCH AND WE'LL--

FOOD?
SPROIN?

WELL... WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO?

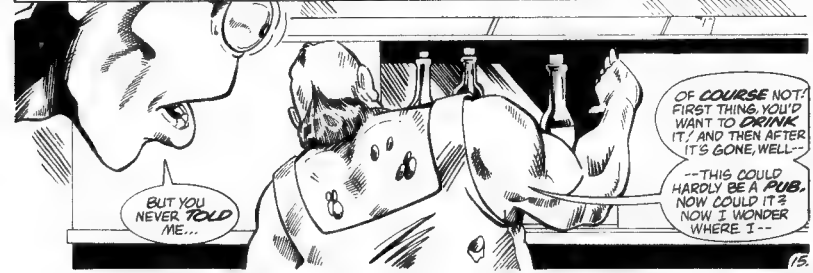
YOU JUST HAVE A SEAT HERE AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.
HENRY, HOW ABOUT A MENU FOR MY FRIEND?

MENU? I DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD HERE. IF I HAD ANY FOOD AT ALL, THIS WOULD BE THE LAST PLACE I'D KEEP IT.
PLEASE-- YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING--
HEY--

--I'M GETTING REAL HUNGRY HERE!
SEE--

WE HAVE TO FIND HIM SOMETHING, HENRY-- HE'LL KILL ME IF IF YOU DON'T--
YEAH-- AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'D BE THE ONLY ONE. LORD--
--THERE'D BETTER BE SOMETHING AROUND HERE. MAYBE IF WE COULD GET 'IM DRUNK...

YOU MEAN YOU'VE GOT REAL WHISKEY HERE?
OF COURSE-- THIS IS A PUB, ISN'T IT?


BUT YOU NEVER TOLD ME...
OF COURSE NOT! FIRST THING, YOU'D WANT TO DRINK IT, AND THEN AFTER IT'S GONE, WELL--
--THIS COULD HARDLY BE A PUB, NOW COULD IT? NOW I WONDER WHERE I--

AHA! THERE WE GO! HERE-- TAKE IT.
AND GOOD LUCK.
WHILE IN THE "GUEST ROOMS" AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE...
AM I DRUNKER THAN I THOUGHT--
--OR IS SOMETHING KINDA STRANGE GOING ON HERE?
THIS IS GONNA SOUND WEIRD, BUT--
--THE REALLY STRANGE THING IS--
--THEY ALL ACT LIKE EVERYTHING IS PERFECTLY NORMAL.
I'VE HEARD OF ENGLISH STOICISM, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
YEAH--I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN--
--I HEARD WHAT THEIR "KING" SAID..
HE WAS GLAD WE CAME THROUGH THE WAR UNHARMED "AS WELL ?!?"
HE'S A COUPLE FEET TALL, WEIGHS ABOUT FIFTY POUNDS, AN' IS UGLIER THAN MY FIRST WIFE--
--AN' HE CALLS THAT UNHARMED?
THEY'RE ALL ACTIN' LIKE NOTHIN' HAPPENED!
IT'S STRANGE, ALL RIGHT--
--BUT I THINK WE'VE BEEN OVERLOOKING THE STRANGEST THING OF ALL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ROGER?

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE, KELLY. I CAN SEE DUKE AND CAL FALLING FOR A HOARY OLD SCIENCE-FICTION CLICHÉ--
--BUT YOU'RE A PHYSICIAN. I'M A SCIENTIST. WE SHOULD KNOW BETTER. WE'VE BEEN TOO UPSET TO THINK CLEARLY.
WE'RE CONCENTRATING ON THE ECCENTRICITIES OF THEIR BEHAVIOR, WHEN THE REAL MYSTERY IS THEIR EXISTENCE! RADIATION JUST WOULDN'T DO THIS--
--IT JUST WOULDN'T CAUSE THESE KINDS OF MUTATIONS. AFTER SEVERAL GENERATIONS, PERHAPS IT COULD, BUT NOT AMONG THE SURVIVORS, AND PROBABLY NOT AMONG THEIR CHILDREN.
KELLY--THIS WASN'T JUST THE RESULT OF AN ATOMIC WAR. SOMETHING ELSE IS HAPPENING HERE.
GERM WARFARE? GENETIC EXPERIMENTATION?
PROBABLY BOTH--AND PROBABLY THINGS WE HAVEN'T BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND.
SO YA THINK THIS MIGHT HAVE SOMETHIN' TA DO WITH THESE MUTANTS' STRANGE BEHAVIOR?
I'M NOT SURE. THIS BEHAVIOR IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE SAW BACK HOME. I'M NOT SURE OF WHAT TO MAKE OF ANYTHING NOW. THERE ARE JUST SO MANY MYSTERIES.
SPEAKING OF WHICH--
I'VE GOT A MYSTERY WE'D BETTER SOLVE REAL QUICK!! NAMELY--
--WHY'S HE PEEKING THROUGH OUR WINDOW?
17

HEY, YOU!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
MY GOD-- HE'S JUMPING!
HE'S NOT HURT BUT--
--HE'S GETTING AWAY!
C'MON, THEN--
WE'RE GOIN' AFTER HIM!
DUKE--
--WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
DOIN'? WE'RE GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!
WHY?
HE WAS PROBABLY JUST CURIOUS--AND THEN WE SCARED HIM! SO HE RAN AWAY--
--BUT YOU'RE GOING TO RUN OFF AND OVERREACT THIS, LIKE YOU DO EVERY TIME SOME LITTLE THING BOTHERS YOU! YOU'RE HONESTLY SO PARANOID--
HEY, LADY--

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WATCHIN', MOST TIMES I'VE BEEN "PARANOID"--
--I'VE BEEN RIGHT!

KELLY, YOU'RE TOO NICE. YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, THIS...IT'S LIKE A WAR ZONE OUT THERE! THESE AREN'T NICE, NORMAL PEOPLE.
IT MAY BE JUST WHAT YOU SAID. MEBBE HE'S SCARED--

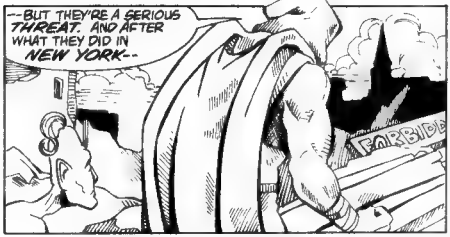
MEBBE NOT. AROUND HERE, LOTSA LITTLE THINGS CAN BE SIGNS OF DANGER. YOU TWO CAN DO WHAT YA WANT--
--BUT I'M NOT TAKIN' ANY DUMB CHANCES!

ROGER?

LET'S GO, KELLY.

...HUMANS AT THE CASTLE. THEY SAID THEY CAME FROM AMERICA, AND--
HUMANS? HERE FROM AMERICA?

THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT HERE--


--BUT THEY'RE A SERIOUS THREAT. AND AFTER WHAT THEY DID IN NEW YORK--

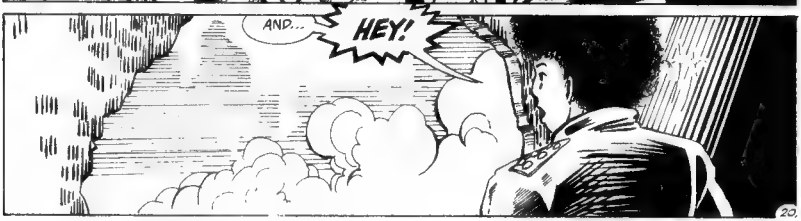
--THE EX-MUTANTS MUST DIE!

WHILE:
NO THANKS, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DRINK. I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH. BESIDES, MY BROTHER SCOTT SAYS--

"--ANY TIME YOU THINK TAKING A DRINK CAN HELP YOU, THEN IT CAN PROBABLY HURT YOU."

EITHER THAT. OR HE SAYS IT GIVES HIM A HEADACHE. I FORGET WHICH.
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET GOING, ANYWAY--

--IT'S GETTING LATE, AND MY FRIENDS MIGHT MISS ME, AND--


AND...
HEY!

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
SPROING
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE COULD GET HERE-- BUT IF HE'S HERE, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!!
I'VE GOT TO WARN THE OTHERS.
SPROING
HMM...
BUT FIRST-- I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHERE I AM...
?

WELL, IT LOOKS SAFE.
OR AT LEAST AS SAFE AS IT GETS AROUND HERE!
NO SIGN OF TROUBLE YET.
YOU MUST BE DISAPPOINTED.
NO CHANCE TO SHOW OFF. STRETCH THOSE MANLY MUSCLES...
LISTEN, KELLY, I DON'T GIVE A GOOD DAMN HOW HUNG-OVER YOU ARE! THIS AIN'T ALL THE GAME YOU'D LIKE TA THINK IT IS!
--AND THESE PEOPLE AREN'T LIKELY TA BE THE NICE FOLKS YOU'D LIKE TA THINK THEY ARE!
AND DUKE--

YOU'RE JUST BEING PARANOID.
THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON HERE!
NEXT
BETTER FRED THAN DEAD!

THE NEW HUMANS

THAT TRICK NEVER WORKS...

Send your letters to: 2405 Warwood Avenue Wheeling, WV 26003

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to **Lawrence & Lim's NEW HUMANS #2**. You're all just in time for one of the most dreaded productions in comics: The Second Issue Text Page.

First issue text pages are relatively easy. You babble a bit about the book in question. You tell the folks at home a bit about yourself. You promise them the moon, and then hope like hell you can deliver.

By the third issue, you've usually got at least *some* letters.

But what on earth do I do for this one?

I'll admit it. Here I am, the office's undisputed master of the stalling-for-time text page, and I still don't know what to do. In fact, I'll even admit that this time around I was strongly in favor of another house ad.

But co-publisher and editor-in-chief David Campiti insists you'll all be terribly disappointed if I don't babble at you for a page or two. Me, I know better -- but I hate to see a grown man cry. So I guess we'll all just play along with him.

So now that we've established I'm going to write this text page, all we have to do is figure out what I'm going to write about. Campiti was in favor of good ol'- fashioned hype, where I push all the many wonderful upcoming **EX-MUTANTS** and **NEW HUMANS** projects and spin-offs. The poster, the graphic novel, the one-shots, the **WILD KNIGHTS** series, and all that sort of stuff.

But me, I'm not an associate editor anymore. Just a freelancer. So I don't have to do that sort of thing anymore.

And personally, I kinda figure if you like this stuff, you'll buy it. If you don't, you won't, and no endless amount of plugging here on this text page is really going to make any difference one way or another.

End of *that* discussion.

What else then? Well, I suppose I could finally do "the definitive David Lawrence autobiography." Everything you've always wanted to know, but had to much sense to ask. All collected here, between two covers, all on one text page, for the very first time.

But the thing is, those of you who've been with me for any length of time *already* know me pretty well. I've been chatting with a lot of you for about nine months now. Long enough to have a baby, for crying out loud!

And I figure you've got a pretty good idea of my likes and dislikes, where I go and what I do. In fact, you probably already know more about me that you really want to

So I guess we'll scratch that idea, too.

Maybe I could give you the entire lowdown on the re-orientation into PIED PIPER COMICS. But you're probably as tired of hearing about it as I am of living through it. After all, we're supposed to be here to have a good time, aren't we? So there goes that idea.

Then there's the story of **Lawrence & Lim's NEW HUMANS #1**

Who it is, and how it came to be. The long delays. The five pencillers The ever-amazing Ron Lim -- who when the book was turned over to him took only one week to pencil it and then get it inked, with the help of Chris Tsuda and Neill Brengettsey.

I could explain why on earth we've got three, count 'em, *three* inkers working on this comic book you're holding in your hands -- but that, of course, is a combination of some very strange time factors, and the company change that we decided not to talk about in the paragraph above.

And, come to think of it, three inkers *is* a step in the right direction for this book-- since last month we had four. It's not really all that interesting a story, anyway.

I'd rather just thank Chris, Neill, and Keith for the fine jobs they've done and leave it at that.

(Though I should mention we're all particularly proud of our art crew, for shifting into a style using a lot more placement of gray tones. That way, we look like we intended and designed this book to be black-and-white, rather than "Oops, we forgot to add color!")

So what *do* we have to talk about? The Penguins' chances of making the NHL playoffs? Not bloody likely, at this point. The Pirates' chances for a pennant? Well, it is spring, when hope blooms eternal -- but after the last couple of summers, I don't really want to get my hopes up.

Still too soon to talk about the Steelers. My god, as I type this, they haven't even held the NFL draft yet.

The weather? Well, it's 60 degrees, sunny and gorgeous outside, so I really don't know why we're all inside worrying about this.

Read any good books lately? Seen any good movies? Can Hulk Hogan defeat Andre the Giant at Wrestlemania III?

And will I *ever* run out of idiotic questions?

Look, I've got a great idea. Why don't we take a vote? You tell me what you want to talk about. Do you really want to know my life story? All the deepest, darkest secrets of my life?

Would you rather I just shrug and hype the books? Should we tell Campiti to shut me up, already -- and just run some *ads* the next time this comes up?

Me, what do I know? I just used to work here.

-- David Lawrence
On the run tonight and there's no place left to hide

DON'T CENSOR THESE THOUGHTS!

by David Lawrence

Author of *EX-MUTANTS* ™and *THE NEW HUMANS*™

It thought it could never happen again. I thought after the McCarthy and Wertham witch hunts of the 1950s, we all knew better

Censorship

I've been wracking my brains trying to write a text page on this subject for the last month Trying to write something intelligent, something reasonable, maybe even something poetic

And I can't. Because there's nothing much reasonable to be said about it. Very few intelligent, sensible words to exchange on the subject. And it really isn't a subject I feel even the least bit reasonable about

Because the *censors* aren't reasonable. No matter how seemingly reasonable or sensible, no matter how conciliatory their words, it all boils down to one thing. They're trying to tell me what to write and tell you what to read.

And that's wrong

The poetry on the subject was written two hundred years ago; it's called the Constitution. In this country nobody, no matter what flag or holy cloth they cloak themselves in, has that right

As I said, I never thought it could happen again. I thought -- after the McCarthy and Wertham witch hunts of the 1950s -- that we, as a country, *all* knew better. I guess I was wrong. All of a sudden, after all these years, the cry has gone out anew for censorship of your comics

Not that I should be surprised. The heat's been on for several years now for artists in other fields

Remember the congressional investigation of rock and roll lyrics awhile back, the hue and cry for labelling, for requiring all lyrics to be printed on the jackets? Well, the same kinds of folks have started gunning for all of *us*

I don't know why I thought it wouldn't happen here. Given the increasingly repressive political climate in this country, it shouldn't have surprised me

Maybe I thought we were too small a target for the Falwells to bother with

We've got a serious problem here, like it or not. Distributors and retailers, always the nervous sort, are more than ready to cave in.

One Distributor even goes so far as to refuse to carry comics contrary to his sole moral beliefs. In short, if you patronize a comics shop he services, he's telling you what you can read.

Censorship

Read that word over. Get to know it real well. *Understand* what it means

The entire notion of censorship is entirely contrary to everything this country stands for, yet those who cry the loudest for censorship *swear* they're doing it for the good of America. For "the good of our children."

And where did this whole idea that comic books are children's books get started, anyway?

Sure, there are "kids' comics," just as there are comics that are entirely unsuitable for children And some that can be enjoyed by people of all ages

But the same can be said for movies. And for TV shows. Yet nobody thinks they have a responsibility to make *all* of their products palatable for the smallest of children.

Yet *we're* expected to

It's an odd circle Because comics are receiving more media attention than in years, perhaps than ever before, the cry goes out, "Hey, we'd better watch our steps People are watching us!"

Never mind that the sudden attention is because of quality, adult products

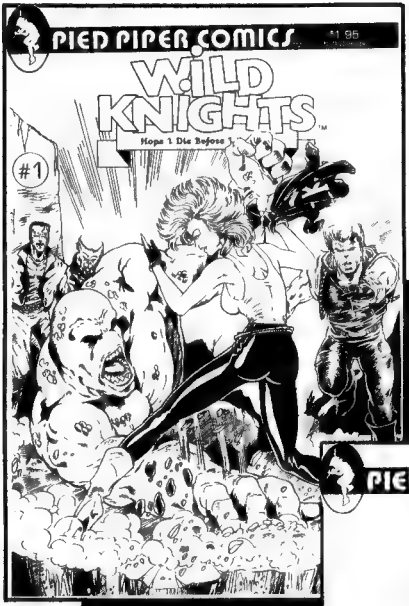
It's the *Dark Knights* and *Watchmen* that garner media attention and attract an expanded audience that we in this business *need*, to see our medium survive

Be strong. Be right. Or you won't hear about censorship for too much longer; in fact, you won't hear about anything they don't want you to hear. If that's your idea of paradise, fine It's not mine, though

I prefer to *think*

-- David Lawrence

WILD KNIGHTS™ #1



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With a tantalizing "good girl" cover
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THE NEW HUMANS™ #3

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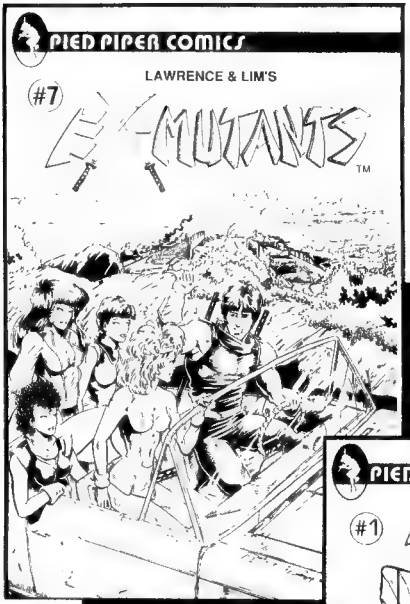
PIED PIPER COMICS

by Lawrence, Lim & Dzon



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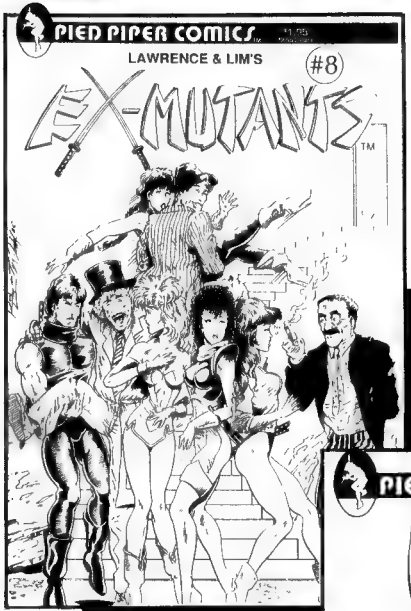

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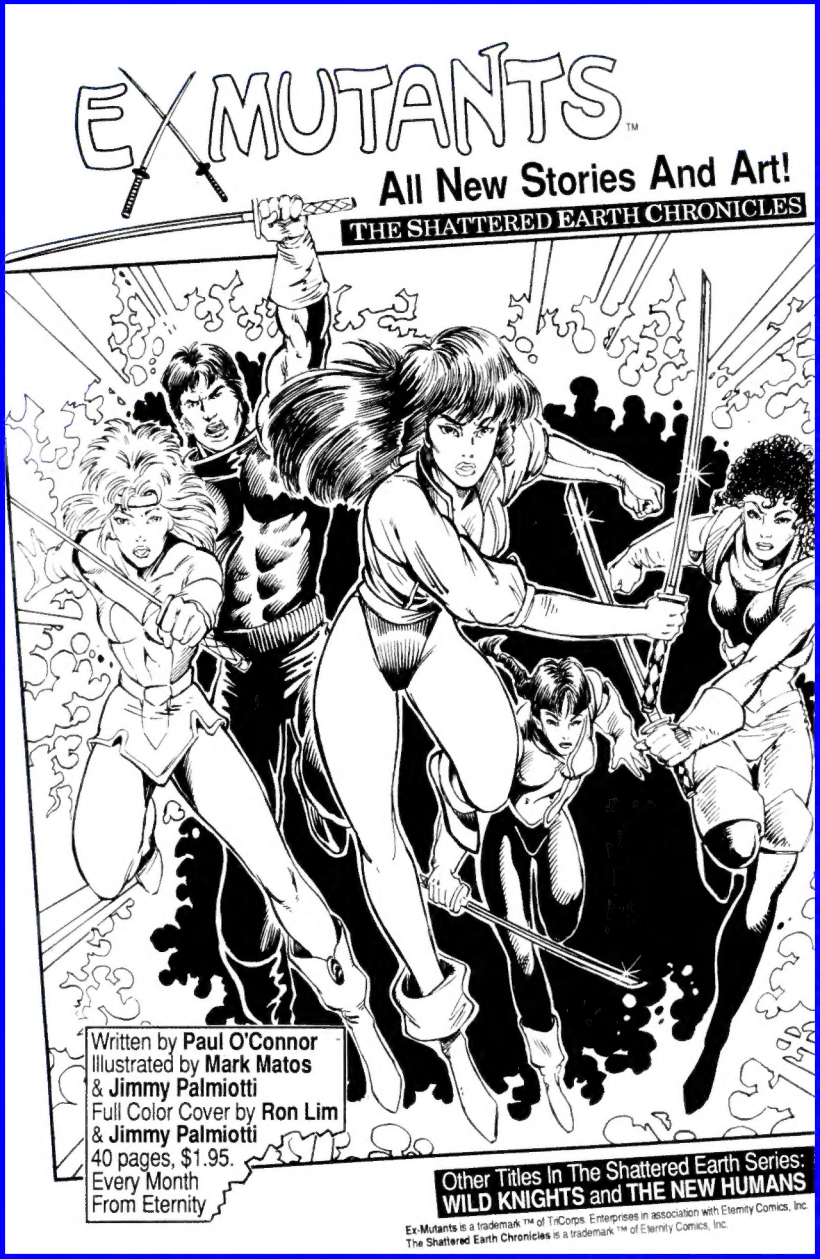
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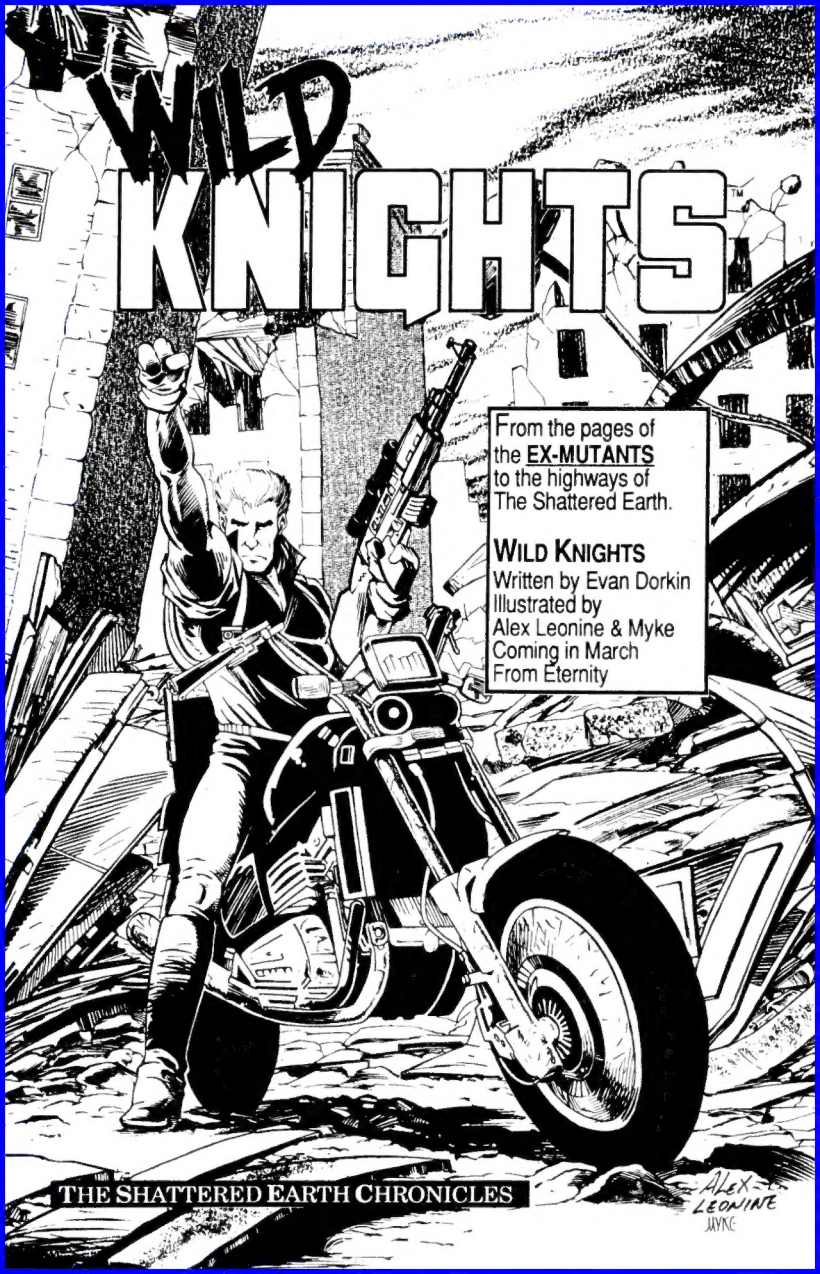
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NEW HUMANS #3: Presenting the pulse-pounding pencilling premiere of **JUMPIN' JACK SNIDER** and the smudgeless inking of **JEFF DEE** in a story we just had to call: "Better Fred Than Dead!" 'cause that's the only title scripter **DENNIS DUARTE** came up with!

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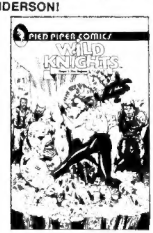

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